regularly and no balance of such payment is due for the present. The amount of royalty paid by NLC to the Government of Tamil Nadu during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Amount
1998-1999	4.52
1999-2000	4.35
2000-2001	4.55
Advance royalty paid in March 2001	250.00

Allocation of Coal to Gujarat State Electricity Board from Korea Rewa

1066. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coa! Linkage Committee has considered the proposal of Gujarat Electricity Board to restore allocation of 50 per cent coal from Korea Rewa instead of 31.3 per cent;

(b) if not, whether the item of Coal Linkage to GEB was put on the agenda of the Committee meeting every quarter; and

(c) what is the financial implication if the GEB's proposal is accepted by Coal Linkage Committee, both to the Ministry of Coal and to the GEB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Linkages of coal are accorded every quarter by Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term), an inter-ministerial body functioning in the Ministry of Coal, and comprising of representatives from coal companies, Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Ministry of Power, the power utilities and the Railways. The allocations of coal are made, keeping in view the availability of required grades and quantities and transport logistics. After considering the request of

GEB and the recommendations of CEA in this regard, SLC(ST) granted the following linkages, keeping in view the availability of coal in different coalfields and the transport logistics etc.:

Year	Linkage	(Lakh tonnes)		% of Total Linkage	
	K-Rewa	Korba	Total	K-Rewa	Korba
2000-2001	36.60	81.55	118.15	31	69
2001-2002 (Upto Dec. 2001)	26.70	58.50	85.20	31	69

Abolition/Lowering of Customs Duty on Aluminium

1067. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether HINDALCO and NALCO are amongst the lowest cost producers of Aluminium in the world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Customs Duty on Import of Aluminium in India, at 25 per cent basic and 30.8 per cent effective, is much higher than prevailing duty in our neighbouring developing countries because of which primary producers in India have deliberately kept their selling prices much higher than international price prevailing at London Metal Exchange; and

(c) if so, the reasons the Ministry of Coal and Mines is not recommending to Finance Ministry for abolition/lowering of customs duty on Aluminium to save secondary industry?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Custom Duty on import of Aluminium is 25 per cent (basic) plus 16 per cent (additional) plus 4 per cent (special additional duty) which is higher than neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan. However, Aluminium and its downstream